



## SELECTED EVENTS – January to April 2007

### "Battle of the Books" Kicks Off at Consulate General



*Participants of the "Battle of the Books" in front of the U.S. Consulate General. Right: Consul Mark Wenig*

**April 27, 2007.** Some 50 students contesting the "Battle of the Books" were greeted by Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig at the Leipzig Consulate. Organized by an English teacher from a local high school, the "Battle of the Books," based on an American formula, is held annually as an English language reading and literature competition. This year it brought together students from eight schools, some in Leipzig and others from as far away as Kronshagen in Schleswig-Holstein. In speaking to the students, teachers and judges, Wenig focused on the significance of the English language in global communication. American intern Shanon Self, who also acted as one of the judges in the contest, spoke to the group about her own experiences as an American living in Germany, about the various American and German stereotypes she encounters and the need for German-American dialogue.

### Consul Wenig Addresses Students, English Club in Waldenburg and Hohenstein-Ernstthal



*From left: Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig; Uwe Bellmann, English teacher; Andreas Barth, Ratsschulbibliothek Zwickau*

**April 26, 2007.** Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig addressed a student group in the Saxon town of Waldenburg on April 26 with a Power Point presentation on his home state of Alaska. The visit was arranged by Andreas Barth, one of the lead librarians in the historic Ratsschulbibliothek (Council Library) in the city of Zwickau. The 11th graders and their teachers asked many questions, and afterwards, school administrators invited Wenig and his wife to brief roundtable. Later in the day, Wenig went on to nearby town of Hohenstein-Ernstthal, the birthplace of the German western writer, Karl May. At the town's Karl May Center, Wenig gave the another Alaska Power Point presentation for the members of the bi-monthly English Club, and questions and a warm discussion followed.

### Reaching out to Torgau Youth



*Consul General Mark Scheland at the Johann-Walter-Gymnasium in Torgau, donating books to the school's deputy director*

**April 25, 2007.** In connection with his visit to Torgau, Consul General Mark Scheland discussed U.S. foreign policy with about 60 students from the Johann-Walter-Gymnasium. The students engaged in conversations on American views about the Iraq war and strategy, political opportunities for women in the United States, and American perceptions of German culture. After the discussion, the Consul General presented the school library with a book donation of American atlases.

## Commemorating the Torgau "Link-Up"



*Left to right: Mr. Wolfgang Gerstenberg, former Mayor of Torgau; Mr. Karl-Heinz Lange; Consul General Mark Scheland; Mr. Herbert Schedina; The Honorable Andrea Staude, Mayor of Torgau; The Honorable Andreas Haberland, Mayor of Strehla; Mr. Heinz Richter; Dr. Uwe Niedersen*

**April 25, 2007.** Lt. Col. Kenneth Dobbartin, Embassy Berlin Assistant Army Attaché, joined Leipzig Consul General Mark Scheland at a wreath laying ceremony for the commemoration of the "link-up" of American and Soviet troops on the Elbe River 62 years ago. Also in attendance were Torgau Mayor Andrea Staude, former mayor Wolfgang Gerstenberg, and Andreas Haberland, the mayor of Strehla. Following the commemoration at the mayor's reception, Consul General Scheland presented plaques on behalf of the U.S. 69th Infantry Division Veterans' Association to the mayors, as well as to Karl-Heinz Lange, Heinz Richter, and Dr. Uwe Niedersen in gratitude for their efforts to commemorate local WW II-era events and maintain contact with U.S. veterans over many years. The Torgauer Zeitung covered the commemorations, quoting Mayor Staude as saying that "the three flags representing the U.S., Russia, and Germany reflect our common responsibility for preserving peace and combating terrorism."

## "Tender Bar" Feeling Recreated in Leipzig



*J. R. Moehringer (left) reading at "Haus des Buches" in Leipzig*

**April 24, 2007.** U.S. author and Pulitzer Prize winner J.R. Moehringer teamed up with well-known German actor Dominic Raacke to present the bestseller "Tender Bar" to an audience in Leipzig. The event, which was co-sponsored by the House of Books (Haus des Buches), the Fischer Publishing Firm, and Leipzig Consulate General, recreated for the audience the special atmosphere of Moehringer's "upbringing" in Manhasset, New York, and the lessons he learned for life at the "tender bar." The reading provided a glimpse of – as Moehringer put it – an underrepresented slice of life in American literature: the efforts and ingenious ways in which single mothers raise their children.

## Consulate General Leipzig Recognized World Day of Books and Copyright



*Gerhard Lambrecht (right) and Mark Wenig*

**April 23, 2007.** Consulate General Leipzig's Information Resource Center (IRC) has cooperated for several years with the Dessau Public Library (Anhaltische Landesbücherei). This fruitful relationship began with a donation from the consulate of books drawn from a decommissioned U.S. military library. To commemorate and renew our partnership, Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig presented the Dessau library a new collection, drawn this time from titles donated by U.S. publishers for display at the March 2007 Leipzig Book Fair. The new contribution enters the library's special section on arts and architecture – central themes in the famous "Bauhaus" city of Dessau. The Consulate's half-day program at the library included a "Meet US" discussion featuring Shanon Self and Lena Schlenkza, American and German university students who are currently doing internships at the Consulate. They discussed mutual German-American stereotypes with sixty students from three upper grade secondary school (Gymnasium) classes from the Philantropinum.

## High Culture with a Light Touch in Leipzig



**April 22, 2007.** Consul General and Mrs. Scheland hosted a third recital in their "Eine kleine Hausmusik" series, in which they present young American musicians to audiences drawn from the region's major musical institutions, politics, business and other fields.

*Pianists Takahiro Nagasaki (Japan); Elena Mumber (Germany); Soprano Elisabeth Marshall (USA). Ms. Marshall, usually enrolled at Indiana University, is a Fulbright scholarship recipient who is studying for one year at Leipzig's conservatory (Hochschule für Musik und Theater)*

## Meeting the Magdeburg Press



*From left: Ms. Dagmar Jakob from Schwans Food GmbH (donor of one stipend); Ms. Thekla Neuss (recipient of the Marvin Schwan Stipend); Ms. Eva Ehrhardt and Ms. Florian Meißner, scholarship winners; Mark Scheland, Consul General; Mark Wenig, Consul for Public Affairs; Dr. Uwe Küster, MdB*

**April 19, 2007.** Leipzig Consul General Mark Scheland, Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig and Information Specialist Rita Wallace represented the Consulate in Magdeburg as the German-American Dialog Center introduced this year's three scholarship recipients to the local press. The three high school students, who had been selected from a pool of 60 applicants, said they wanted to examine first-hand whether stereotypes about the U.S. are indeed true, and promised to act as ambassadors for Saxony-Anhalt in the U.S. Dr. Uwe Kuester (MdB) lauded Leipzig Consulate General's long-time support for the high-school exchange and also proudly announced the first scholarship from the Schwan Food Company, an American firm near Magdeburg. Following the event, Consul General Scheland visited the MDR state broadcasting headquarters (LFH) for a backgrounder with 10 high-level journalists on subjects ranging from local U.S.-German business relations to the situation in Iraq.

## Leipzig Consulate General Welcomes German and American Students



*Consul Michael Rousek talks to the students*

**April 19, 2007.** Consul Michael Rousek welcomed a group of American and German students, who were interested in learning about the duties and responsibilities of a consulate. The mixed group of students included Americans from Vermont, who were visiting the Schiller Gymnasium in Leipzig. Rousek provided information about career options in the diplomatic services and U.S. foreign policy, as well as how Americans are viewed by Germans.

## Reaching Out to Local Office-Holders and Students in Saxony



*From left: Mayor of Herrnhut, Rainer Fischer, and Consul General Mark Scheland*

**April 17 - 18, 2007.** Leipzig Consul General Mark Scheland visited the cities of Zittau and Herrnhut in eastern Saxony on April 17 and 18. In Zittau, the Consul General explained the Consulate's services and role in the region to the acting mayor and party leaders in the City Council, discussed regional economic development at the Chamber of Industry and Commerce, and visited a local firm. City council members expressed interest in bringing a "Study in the USA" presentation to a school event or public forum. In Herrnhut, the Consul General witnessed the drawing of Old Testament verses that will become part of the Moravian Church's 2010 publication of "The Daily Texts," published in German and 49 other languages. Scheland also spoke to about 50 5th and 6th graders at the Zinzendorf-Gymnasium, called on the mayor and signed the city's Golden Book, and toured the Herrnhuter Christmas Star factory and the ethnographic museum.



## Targeting English Teachers



*Professor Crister Garrett*

**April 17, 2007.** Consulate General Leipzig hosted an in-service training for 19 English teachers from Saxony-Anhalt in Leipzig. Prof. Crister Garrett, American historian and political scientist teaching at Leipzig University, lectured on how to use the Internet in teaching American politics and the next Presidential elections, while Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig introduced the teachers to the Consulate's activities. The participants also learned about the Information Resource Center's research tools and services. The event, which was co-sponsored by local school authorities, was a follow-up to in-service training seminars in Schönebeck, held in the spring of 2006.

## Consul Michael Rousek Visits Commemoration Ceremony for the 62nd Anniversary of the End of WWII



*Lord Mayor of Naumburg Bernward Küper (right) welcomes Consul Michael Rousek (left). Center: Naval Vice Attaché, U.S. Embassy Berlin, Frigate Captain Randy Bibby. Photo: Torsten Philipp*

**April 12, 2007.** Consul Michael Rousek attended the ceremony for the celebration of the end of WWII 62 years ago conducted by Bernward Küper, mayor of Naumburg. In his speech Rousek pointed out the change in the relationship between former enemies who in the process of ending the war became friends. He also reminded the audience of American support in Germany's reunification. Through this involvement the USA assisted in securing democracy for a second time in this region after 1945. Afterwards, author Jürgen Möller introduced his book „Der Vorstoß des V. US Corps zur Saale Unstrut und die Besetzung von Naumburg im April 1945“. The ceremony was attended by 160 people from regional businesses, political figures and the general public. Consul Rousek took that opportunity to present Jürgen Möller with a plaque from the Veterans of the 69th U.S.-Infantry Division, honoring Möller's dedication to the accurate portrayal of the American liberation of East Germany, specifically Naumburg.

## U.S. Policy Dialog at a Chemnitz High School



*Consul General Mark Scheland at the Georgius-Agricola-Gymnasium*

**April 4, 2007.** The Georgius-Agricola-Gymnasium, celebrating its 150th anniversary in the Saxon industrial city of Chemnitz all this week, invited Consul General Scheland to a "Foreign Language Day" event. The Consul General acquainted an audience of about 40 students with the work of the consulate and addressed students' questions on such varied issues as Iran's nuclear weapons program, the path to stabilizing Iraq and American views on military action there, alternative approaches to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and what form the U.S. Government would favor for a European Union constitution.

## Consul Wenig Adds Background for Upper Grade Students.



*Mark Wenig in the Consulate's Information Resource Center*

**March 28, 2007.** Consulate General Leipzig took an active role in an English class with eight students and their two teachers from Freies Gymnasium in Penig. With the final exams being scheduled in four weeks, the group listened to a 60-minute briefing by Consul Mark Wenig on a wide variety of topics, all covered in the school curriculum, which included the "American dream," the American way of life, religion, elections, the U.S. system of government, education, the civil rights movement, and African-Americans. The talk was followed by a hands-on session in the Information Resource Center, including intensive study of appropriate materials.

## Consul Wenig Attends Arizona Club in Dresden, Then Meets American, Mexican, and German Students



*Consul Mark Wenig and Thalia Klimow*

has become an annual event for the Consul, and this year, Wenig was joined by Leipzig resident Ms. Thalia Klimow, who originally hails from Mexico City, and who also welcomed the visiting Mexican students.

## Consulate General Leipzig Hosts Saxony Youth Foundation



*Vice Consul Mike Rousek talks to students at the Consulate*

**March 26, 2007.** Vice Consul Michael Rousek hosted a group of 20 recent German high school graduates who have been selected for a year-long state-funded program for political and social volunteer work. The program was founded by the Saxony Parliament in 1997 to fight racism and extremism among young people, while providing avenues for political education. The group showed great interest in discussing American foreign policy and a wide-ranging and sometimes heated discussion resulted. The lively discussion touched on a variety of topics and provided food for thought for the politically-active youth.

## Consulate General Hosts Leipzig Book Fair Booth, Web Chat, and Reading



*U.S. Consulate General Leipzig's booth. Consul General Mark Scheland (right) and Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig (left)*

one of the fair's foci on young people and didactic support for teachers.

**March 22 -25, 2007.** Leipzig Consulate General staffed a booth at the Leipzig Book Fair and participated the fourth year in Leipzig's major fair. In a departure from the past, the Consulate solicited book donations directly from U.S. based publishers and received over 300 books, many of which were displayed at the booth and which provided a broad overview on what Americans are reading. In addition, 1,000 copies each of the periodicals "The New York Review of Books" and "Publishers Weekly" were given out to fairgoers. Booth activities included a web chat on studying in the U.S. on March 22 which was attended by Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) John Koenig, as well as an information session on visas and consular services on March 24, hosted by Consul General Mark Scheland, who also read to high school students and teachers. This was especially in line with

## Laughing over "The Awful German Language" at a Leipzig High School



**March 23, 2007.** Consul General Mark Scheland read excerpts from Mark Twain's essay "The Awful German Language" before an audience of 11th and 12th graders and the general public at Leipzig's Lutheran School Center. The program was one of the 1,900 book-related events with 1,500 authors happening in dozens of venues in the four-day "Leipzig Reads!" festival, concurrent with the Book Fair. Consul General Scheland provided brief remarks in German about Twain's life and impact on American literature and then got a lot of laughs with his delivery of Twain's satire in the original English.

*Consul General Mark Scheland reads "The Awful German Language" at Luthran School Center Leipzig*



## Leipzig Consulate General Representation at Library Congress



*Nancy Rajczak, U.S. Embassy Berlin, and Prof. Wolfgang Ratzek, University of Applied Sciences, Stuttgart, at Consulate General Leipzig's Booth*

**March 19 - 22, 2007.** The third Leipzig Congress for Information and Library under the auspices of German President Horst Köhler took place at Leipzig's Congress Center. Some 3,000 librarians and other information professionals from Germany and 36 other countries attended the conference on "Information and Ethics." Consulate General Leipzig staff presented State Department and Embassy products and services at a booth, which became an important meeting point for Leipzig Consulate's contacts and attracted national and international participants. Information Resource Officer Sheila Weir and Information Resource Center (IRC) coordinator Nancy Rajczak from U.S. Embassy Berlin also joined the event.

## Deputy Chief of Mission Sees Many Angles of Leipzig



*John Koenig (right), Mark Scheland and students from Hildebrand-Gymnasium, Markkleeberg. Left: English teacher Kerstin Kirschke*

Wolf von Lojewski.

**March 21-22, 2007.** Mission Germany Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) John Koenig was among the protocol guests at the March 21 opening ceremony of the Leipzig Book Fair. The DCM and Consul General Mark Scheland devoted the following day to an informative program of visits to Leipzig/Halle Airport for briefings on military support operations and airport expansion, Amazon.de, and the Consulate General Leipzig booth at the Book Fair. John Koenig's visit culminated in a dinner with selected members of the American Chamber of Commerce.

The whirlwind tour involved the DCM in conversations with Saxony Minister-President Dr. Georg Milbradt, regional and international business leaders, high school participants in our web chat on studying in the U.S., and veteran journalist and Washington correspondent

## Leipzig Consulate Meets with German and American Exchange Students



*Vice Consul Michael Rousek (left) and the group of students*

**March 13, 2007.** Vice Consul Michael Rousek hosted a mixed group of German and American high school teachers and students from the Pestalozzi-Gymnasium in Stadtroda and the E.I. Furr High School in Houston at the Consulate. The schools enjoy a long-standing partnership involving regular mutual visits and exchanges. The group visited the Consulate to get an overview of the diversity of issues covered in transatlantic relations beyond their exchange experience and the active approach of the U.S. Consulate in this environment.

## Commemorating History and Looking Ahead in Schleusingen



*From left: Consul General Mark Scheland; Thuringia's Minister-President Dieter Althaus; Former Federal President Roman Herzog and his wife; Mayor Klaus Brodführer*

**March 3, 2007.** Leipzig Consul General Mark Scheland appeared with former Federal President Roman Herzog and Thuringia's Minister-President Dieter Althaus as speakers at the 775-year jubilee of the city of Schleusingen. Mayor Klaus Brodführer made clear to the audience of several hundred, including federal and state legislators, that he had invited the Consul General to express gratitude for and raise awareness of the role of U.S. troops in "liberating Schleusingen from Nazi dictatorship" in April 1945. The Consul General used his public remarks to emphasize President Bush's commitment to cooperative U.S.-EU efforts on issues of concern including global terrorism, energy and climate, and building further prosperity.

## Cultural Attaché Speaks at Kurt Weill Opening in Dessau



*Cultural Attaché Peter Claussen delivering his keynote speech*

**March 2, 2007.** Cultural Attaché Peter Claussen came to Dessau to represent the Ambassador at the opening of the 15th annual Kurt Weill Festival, celebrating the work of this well-known German émigré music and literary figure who lived and worked in New York in the 1930s and 40s. Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig, U.S. Consulate General Leipzig, and Consulate Leipzig staff member Gabi Schuckelt and Wolfgang Brandt from the cultural section, U.S. Embassy Berlin, were also in attendance. In his remarks, Claussen touched on the importance of cultural exchange and how the U.S. has been enriched by German immigrants such as Weill, and passed along personal greetings from Ambassador Timken, who is a patron of the 10-day event. Also speaking at the opening ceremony were Saxony-Anhalt Minister President Wolfgang Böhmer and Dessau

Mayor Karl Gröger. Following the ceremonies, guests were treated to a lively and hi tech dance performance entitled, "Tango Palast" by the Gregor Seyffert Dance Company based in Dessau.

## Black History Workshop for Teachers from Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt



*Artist Paula Ross' presentation on African-American architect Paul R. Williams*

**February 27, 2007.** An African-American History Month event was organized by the Consulate General Leipzig with 11 English teachers from Leipzig, Magdeburg, and Zwickau taking part. Consul General Mark Scheland opened the workshop with observations on African-Americans in U.S. society, education and diplomacy, and Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig led an interesting discussion about Affirmative Action. The workshop also included a vivid presentation by artist Paula Ross on the African-American architect Paul R. Williams and his impact on U.S. architecture in the early 20th century, and an introduction by Information Resource Center staff on valuable resources to find additional background information.

## Maintaining Close Ties with Leipzig School Libraries



*IRC staff member Mechthild Hölker talks to the group of librarians*

**February 14, 2007.** Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig welcomed 22 librarians and the head of the Leipzig School Library Office, who is responsible for school libraries and staff in the Leipzig area. While Wenig provided an overview on the Consulate and its tasks and services, the staff of the Information Resource Center (IRC) introduced the group to U.S. information on the web, IRC resources, products and programs.

## Putting Muslim Women on Leipzig's Map



*Daisy Khan at "Moritzbastei" in Leipzig*

**February 12, 2007.** Daisy Khan, Executive Director of the American Society for Muslim Advancement, emphasized the need for intercultural understanding and tolerance in both Muslim and Western societies in front of academics, students and an interested general public in Leipzig. The event on the role of Muslim women in the U.S. and Europe was jointly organized by Consulate General Leipzig, the Association of Arab Students, and Eurient, a non-profit organization fostering a dialogue between the orient and occident.

## Mapping America's Future Course in Leipzig



*William Drozdiak (center) at MDR, Leipzig*

**February 9, 2007.** William Drozdiak, former Washington Post European Bureau Chief and current President of the American Council on Germany (ACG) spoke to 30 journalists at the headquarters of the Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk (MDR), one of Germany's most successful public broadcasting affiliates. Drozdiak was welcomed to the Consulate General Leipzig-arranged program by Wolfgang Kenntemich, the head of MDR Television, who had visited the ACG in the spring of last year. Drozdiak, who struck the right tone with his German journalist colleagues, provided insightful analysis and background information on the status of German-

American relations, the 2008 U.S. presidential election campaign and the situations in Afghanistan and Iraq. He also referred to the environmental challenge as a new theme that could bring Germany and the U.S., and respectively the Western world, closer together again.

## Ambassador William R. Timken Jr. Engages Students and Business Leaders in Leipzig



*Ambassador William R. Timken Jr. interviewed by Radio Mephisto*

**February 5, 2007.** Ambassador William R. Timken Jr. and Mrs. Timken spent a full day in Leipzig for meetings with Leipzig's Lord Mayor Burkhard Jung, local politicians, cultural representatives, university students and business leaders. The American Studies Department at Leipzig University hosted him and Mrs. Timken for a roundtable with 28 students and faculty, who asked questions on bilateral German-American and international issues, such as Iraq, Afghanistan and the war on terror. In the evening, the Ambassador addressed over 60 regional business leaders invited by the Leipzig 'Club International' and 'Wirtschafts-Club' with formal remarks on Energy and Innovation. Following his presentation on U.S. efforts to slow and eventually reverse the growth of CO2 emissions in the U.S.

economy, the Ambassador fielded questions on fuel conservation measures, Russian energy supply policy, the President's Iraq strategy, and Guantanamo.

## Anniversary Celebrations at Ronald McDonald House



*Guests of the reception at Ronald McDonald House. From left: Manfred Welzel, CEO McDonald's Kinderhilfe; Consul General Mark Scheland; Michael Lindner, head of RMDH; Ventriloquist Jürgen Hanke; Prof. Dr. Wieland Kiess, Director University Pediatric Clinic; Prof. Dr. Holger Till, Director Pediatric Surgery; Sebastian Krumbiegel from the Leipzig band "Die Prinzen"*

**February 2, 2007.** Consul General Mark Scheland joined 150 high-ranking representatives from the Leipzig political, business and cultural scene in celebrating the fifth anniversary of the Leipzig Ronald McDonald House. Over the past five years, the Ronald McDonald House has provided accommodations and support to over 1800 families of children undergoing treatment for cancer at the nearby Leipzig University Clinic. The event occurred on the American "Ground Hog Day", a theme picked by the Ronald McDonald House (RMDH) for the evening. In remarks reported later in the Leipziger Volkszeitung, Consul General Scheland noted that "Ground Hog Day" and "Ronald McDonald House" were both universally recognizable phrases in American society. He applauded RMDH's contributions to child health care and family life during serious medical treatment.



## America@YourSchool Program in Thuringia



**January 30, 2007.** During a meeting with twenty 11th and 10th graders from Königin Luise-Schule in Erfurt, Minister-Counselor for Economic Affairs Robert F. Cekuta and Leipzig Consul General Mark Scheland reflected on Germany's EU presidency, transatlantic economic ties, crime-fighting, Internet regulations and the U.S. government structure. The program was arranged by the Erfurt Public Library, which is the Consulate's Thuringian America@YourLibrary partner.

*Consul General Mark Scheland (left) and Minister-Counselor for Economic Affairs Robert F. Cekuta*

## Interest in U.S. Course on Energy Security and Climate Change



*Berlin Minister-Counselor for Economic Affairs Robert Cekuta (left) and editor-in-chief Sergej Lochthofen*

**January 29, 2007.** During a visit to the newspaper Thueringer Allgemeine Zeitung in Erfurt, Embassy Berlin Minister-Counselor for Economic Affairs Robert Cekuta and Leipzig Consul General Mark Scheland responded to questions from editor-in-chief Sergej Lochthofen and staff journalists Thomas Rothbart and Florian Gathmann on President Bush's new energy security and conservation proposals. Headlined "Looking for alternatives to Kyoto," the interview underscored the U.S. commitment to environmental protection and the development of alternatives to petroleum-based energy.

## Consul General Exchanges Impressions of America with Magdeburgers



*Consul General Mark Scheland at "Sense and Sofa"*

**January 28, 2007.** Consul General Scheland was the main speaker at a "floating" public forum called "Sense and Sofa" (Sinn und Sofa), a bi-monthly event hosted by the Evangelical (Lutheran) Academy of Saxony-Anhalt and other partners. In the informal setting of a café full of sofas and easy chairs, the Consul General discussed perceptions of the U.S. he had encountered and the realities of American society or policies that relate to those perceptions. The 40-50 attendees broke up into conversation circles to exchange views and questions, and then all re-convened for Q & A with the Consul General. Participants ranged from senior citizens to university students, some of whom will shortly travel from Magdeburg to serve as the U.S. delegation in a Model United Nations conference in New York. The German-American Dialogue Center in Magdeburg was co-

sponsor of the event. The daily newspaper Volksstimme Magdeburg detailed the course of the discussion in a report on January 30.

## Consulate Outreach at Dessau State Library



*Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig and Ms Gladrow, Anhaltische Landesbücherei*

**January 24, 2007.** Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig addressed forty 10th and 11th graders and their English teachers from the "Philanthropinum" Gymnasium about current U.S. political developments and the 2008 elections. The event took place at the "Anhaltische Landesbücherei" library in Dessau. Wenig also presented the deputy library director with American books and DVDs to update their English language collection, which was originally initiated 15 years ago with materials from a closing U.S. military library. The IRC director introduced information products and services and handed out IIP brochures and the CD-ROM, "About the USA."

## Leipzig Consulate Contributes Inside View to Lessons on America



*Consul Mike Rousek addresses high school students from Meerane*

households in their area.

**January 17 and 18, 2007.** Forty 12th graders from the Pestalozzi-Gymnasium in Meerane visited the Consulate to conclude their semester of studying American policies and values by holding a Q&A sessions with Vice Consul Michael Rousek. Staff of the Information Resource Center (IRC) contributed an overview of relevant online research sites and conventional IRC resources. The students welcomed the opportunity to broaden their knowledge about the United States by a first-hand account and reliable resources. They even plan to publish an article in the forthcoming issue of the "Meeraner Zeitung," a no-cost monthly that is delivered to some 9600

## Saxony English Teachers Learn about American Society and Culture



*Fulbright Professor Charles Johanningsmeier during his presentation on American regions at Chemnitz Regionalschulamt*

**January 16, 2007.** On January 16, Consulate General Leipzig conducted a workshop for English teachers in cooperation with the Chemnitz School Authority (Regionalschulamt). Consul for Public Affairs Mark Wenig introduced the Consulate to the more than forty participants and spoke about immigration issues. Fulbright Professor Charles Johanningsmeier talked about the importance of regions in American culture while U.S. speaker Charles Whitmer presented trends in popular American music, focusing mainly on Hip-Hop. The director of Leipzig's Information Resource Center (IRC) presented brochures, pamphlets and CD-ROMs about the USA and introduced U.S. websites. The monthly newsletter for English teachers, produced by the U.S. Mission to Germany, met with great interest, and those teachers not yet on the distribution list asked for subscriptions.

## Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Fried in Dresden



*Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Fried (left) and John Koenig, Deputy Chief of Mission*

**January 12, 2007.** Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Fried participated in foreign policy consultations of the U.S.-EU troika in Dresden on January 12, including talks with 27 EU political directors. The informal consultations marked the beginning of a whole series of talks and ministerial meetings that Germany will host during its EU presidency. Consulate General Leipzig arranged interviews for Assistant Secretary of State Fried with the Sächsische Zeitung, regional public broadcaster Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk (MDR) and DeutschlandRadio Kultur.